Request for vocational training programmes in Himachal Pradesh

*204. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from Himachal Pradesh Government for running vocational training programmes in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered the request;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, this Ministry has received proposals from Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation for opening of 10 Computer Training Centres and 10 Craft Centres in ten districts namely Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kullu, Kangra, Sirmour, Solan, Mandi, Shimla and Una.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposals have been processed and the additional documents required have been sought from the State Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Urban Infrastructure to keep pace with Urban Growth

*205. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that urban India will soon outstrip rural areas as revealed in a study done by the Centre for Policy Research;

(b) if so, whether we are developing the necessary infrastructure for urban development to keep pace with this growth and have we sufficient funds for this purpose; and

(c) if not, whether in this emerging scenario, the urban-rural distinction will remain relevant or do we need to look at the total settlement picture?